

Message Text

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64

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-06 AID-01 /033 W

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R 140906Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1466

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3362

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (MATHIAS, CHARLES)

SUBJECT: CODEL MATHIAS

REF: TEL AVIV 2732

1. FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE JERUSALEM POST OF MAY 14 UNDER THE HEADLINE "MATHIAS BLAMES MISUNDERSTANDING" AND CREDITED TO "JERUSALEM POST CORRESPONDENT."

2. BEGIN TEXT: SENATOR CHARLES MATHIAS HAS SAID THAT HIS "MISUNDERSTANDING" WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OVER ITS REFUSAL TO PERMIT HIM TO VISIT PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE GAZA STRIP HAS BEEN RESOLVED FOLLOWING TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR SIMCHA DINITZ.

3. HE SAID HE HAD ARRANGED WITH DINITZ, BEFORE HIS TRIP TO ISRAEL, PERMISSION TO VISIT THE CAMPS WITHOUT OFFICIAL ESCORTS. HE WAS BARRED FROM DOING THIS, HOWEVER, BY ISRAELI OFFICIALS WHO APPARENTLY HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF HIS UNDERSTANDING WITH DINITZ.

4. MATHIAS ALSO EXPRESSED "SHOCK AND DISAPPOINTMENT" AT THE UPROAR OF PROTEST CAUSED BY HIS MEETING IN BEIRUT WITH PLO LEADER YASSER ARAFAT. "I HAVE AMPLY DEMONSTRATED MY COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL," HE STATED, ARGUING THAT ARAFAT HAS BECOME A "FACT TO BE DEALT WITH" AND THE MEETING WITH HIM WAS NECESSARY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM.

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UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM.

5. MATHIAS, A MEMBER OF THE IMPORTANT SENATE FOREIGN
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR FOREIGN
AID, SAID FURTHER THAT ISRAEL WAS NOW IN "GREATER PERIL" THAN
AT ANY PREVIOUS TIME AND HE PLEDGED HIS CONTINUING ASSISTANCE
TO ISRAEL. END TEXT
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV03362
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760187-0798
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760551/aaaabrlg.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEL AVIV 2732
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <25 JAN 2005 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL MATHIAS
TAGS: OREP, (MATHIAS, CHARLES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006